

F-9-R-12 Southwest Montana Fishery Study.

Job III. Creel census on Waters in the Project Area.

The objective is to collect harvest data on waters where fishery management techniques are applied. Creel census studies, designed to measure or estimate total pressure and total harvest, require large expenditures of both funds and manpower. Therefore, limited sampling of angler harvest should be employed where reliable data can be obtained. A partial creel census was conducted on the Yellowstone River last year to determine the extent of voluntary cooperation by anglers as well as harvest data. A checking station was set up near Livingston and newsreleases were used asking fishermen to stop and report their catches. The station was operated two days a week. Aerial counts of anglers on some of the census days were used to estimate the extent of cooperation.

Creel census techniques will be continued on ~~the~~ important waters in the management area to determine harvest and ^{evaluate} ~~test~~ census methods.